THE EXAMINER.

No. 58. *SUNDAY, FEBRUARY* 5, 1809.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 58.

ON THE REVIVED CRY OF JACOBINISM.

If the love of one's country has become a suspicious phrase, we must thank our party animosities. Some who have professed to love it with ardour, are known to have panted for nothing but it's grosser enjoyments; others have been so jealous of it's affection, that they have endeavoured to confine it by all kinds of restrictions to the imminent hazard of it's existence; while others, who have been appointed it's guardians and grown too fond of their power, have boasted so exquisite a singleness of attachment, that they would fain run every one through the body who dares to mention his regard. In short, the phrase has been so abused for mercenary and abandoned purposes, it has been used so often for love of place and of power, that there is scarcely a public individual in whose lips it obtains the least credit. The defenders of corruption, like all those vain or impatient profligates who with their own good opinion have lost their value for human nature, are the first to disbelieve every one who professes a pure patriotism: they cannot conceive how any such feeling can exist as a real love of reform, how any man can have an attachment to the British Constitution, without blindness to it's corruption or forbearance towards it's corrupters. Above all, they feel that if such an attachment does exist, it must be something very different from their own, so that it's ascendancy must inevitably expose and baffle them; and therefore, as their utmost malice consists in assimilating the characters of others to their own, they raise a counter-cry of corruption, and whenever you mention reform, insist that you mean revolution.

This was a much more potent way of reasoning some years ago than it is now. "The abuses of the French revolution," as I have observed in the Preface to the last year's EXAMINER, "threw back many lovers of reform upon prejudices, that were merely good as far as they were opposed to worse." People were naturally disgusted and alarmed by the French enormities, they saw the horrors which a revolution of the whole state produced, the errors of their own government were forgotten in a contrast so flattering, and they were persuaded that it was better to let the Constitution remain in it's present state than to expose it to calamities so overwhelming. Thus a love of reform for the purpose of strengthening the constitution was treated as a love of revolution for the purpose of ruining it: the government and the people of this country were both belied by a comparison with those of the neighbouring nation for the purpose of deterring reform, as if there was no difference between the gradual self-reform of a free state and the compulsory alteration of a despotic one; and this misrepresentation has been continued by interested men in times when they had not even the excuse of unseasonableness, till at length the three orders of the state have become grossly disproportionate, corruption has increased till it stares even it's deniers in the face, and the *constitution, after daring and destructive blows, becomes every day weaker and weaker, while our enemy is growing every instant stronger and stronger.*

These abuses however are at length threatened by a set of men, who, belonging to none of the parties that have wielded or submitted to corruption, are indeed but few at present, but at the same time they have two powerful weapons, the appeal to common reason and the appeal to the sound principles of the British Constitution. Their antagonists, who can now no longer refer them to the approaching ruin of the French nation, and who can no longer say, *when they look at Italy, Prussia, and Spain,* "It is better to fight the French with a weakened constitution than with a renovated one," are at length ignorant which way to turn for an excuse: at one time they were bold enough to hint that the Constitution did not want reform, but this was too impudent; then they rushed to an opposite extreme, and said that it could not bear reform, but this was too absurd; so that at last, their impatience and impotence of argument appear to have deprived them of reason; they rage and ridicule in a breath; they see a poniard in every pen, and bloodshed in every inkstand; the scrawls of little children on the walls become so many Tekel Upharsins; the nation already seems to turn round to their distempered heads; every one who remonstrates with the madness is converted into the ghost of a Sans-Culotte; and at length they reach the acme of derangement, and call us Jacobins and French levellers! O cry worthy of the nineteenth century and of the energetic politicians who are to save Great Britain!

The meaning of the word Jacobin has undergone very singular transformations: originally it signified a friar of the order of Saint James; then it became an anarchist, in consequence of the club of French demagogues who met in a room formerly belonging to that Order; and now it means a Restorer of the British Constitution. Those who accuse us of wishing for an anarchy of things, have at least commenced the confusion by an anarchy of words. Upon this principle, selfishness and irresolution in the Court vocabulary become zeal and firmness; an impatient

rebuff is called a respectful rebuke; and littleness of mind is magnanimity, as the "magnanimous Alexander," the "magnanimous Prince Regent," and the "magnanimous Ferdinand the Seventh." I said a little while ago, that a well-meaning man in these times had nothing to wish but to be loaded with abusive appellations, that might do him justice by contrast. This is a wish soon gratified; and I cannot but congratulate every lover of reform on the pamphlets that daily issue from the press to prove that we are beasts and devils. If you dislike the contemptible conflicts of party, you would put an end to all social order: if you object to a Prince, who is an acknowledged spendthrift and adulterer, you would overthrow all the Princes in Europe. I never heard in my life such fine compliments to the "noble race of established Potentates." To enquire, it seems, into characters notoriously bad, is to overthrow the liberty of the Press; but to call the inquirers scoundrels and devils, is of all things the way to secure it. I, for my part, who do not know a single political writer existing, and whose whole enjoyment consists in my book, my friends, and a fireside warm without the help of politics, am of course a most ferocious conspirator and a monster of anarchy, not to mention a dastard, a fool, and a fiend. Let us, in the name of reason and common charity, leave this style to our opponents. It would be hard to deprive them of their only weapon, a weapon so polished, so well-tempered, and so *useful*,

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(This subject will be concluded in our next.)

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

TWENTY-FIFTH BULLETIN OF THE ARMY OF SPAIN.

BENEVENTE, JAN. 5.—His Majesty being informed that the English army was reduced to less than 20,000 men, resolved upon moving his head-quarters from Astorga to Benevente, where he will remain some days, and from whence he will proceed to take a central position at Valladolid, leaving to the Duke of Dalmatia the task of destroying the English army.

The rear-guard of the English, by accepting battle at Prievas, had hoped to enable the left column, which was chiefly composed of Spaniards, to form its junction at Villa Franca. He also hoped to gain a night, in order more completely to evacuate Villa Franca. We found in the hospital at Villa Franca 300 English sick or wounded. The English burnt in that town a large magazine of flour and corn. They also destroyed several artillery carriages, and killed 500 of their horses. We have already counted 1600 of them left dead on the roads. The amount of the prisoners is considerable, and increases every moment. In the cellars of the town we found several English soldiers who had died from drunkenness.

The head of Merle's division, forming part of the Duke of Dalmatia's corps, came up with the advanced guard on the 3d. At four P. M. it reached the rear guard of the English, who were upon the heights of Prievas, a league before Villa Franca, consisting of 5000 infantry and 600 cavalry. This position was a very fine position, and difficult to attack. Gen. Merle made his dispositions. The infantry advanced, beat the charge, and the English were entirely routed. The difficulty of the ground did not permit the cavalry to charge, and only 200 prisoners were taken. We had some 50 men killed or wounded. Gen. Colbert advanced to see if the cavalry could form; his hour was arrived—a ball struck him in the forehead, and he lived but a quarter of an hour. There are two roads from Astorga to Villa Franca. The English took the right, the Spaniards the left; they marched without order—were cut off and surrounded by the Hanoverian chasseurs. A General of Brigade and a whole division laid down their arms.

The head-quarters of the Duke of Dalmatia were, on the 4th in the evening, at the distance of ten leagues from Lugo. On the 2d his Majesty reviewed at Astorga the divisions of Laborde and Loison, which form the army of Portugal. These troops see the English flying, and burn with impatience to get up with them.

Since the 27th ult. we have taken more than 10,000 prisoners, among whom are 1500 English. We have taken also more than 400 baggage waggons, 15 waggons of fire-locks, their magazines, and hospitals. The English retreat in disorder, leaving magazines, sick, wounded, and equipage. They will experience a still greater loss, and if they be able to embark, it is probable it will not be without the loss of half their army. We found in the barns several English who had been hanged by the Spaniards—his Majesty was indignant and ordered the barns to be burnt. The peasants, whatever may be their resentment, have no right to attempt the lives of the waggoners of either army. His Majesty has ordered the English prisoners to be treated with all the respect due to soldiers who have manifested liberal ideas, and sentiments of honour. On the 4th, at night, the Duke of Dalmatia's head-quarters were ten leagues from Lugo.

We have received the confirmation of the news announcing the arrival of the 7th corps, under General Gouvion St. Cyr, at Barcelona. He entered that place on the 17th. On the 15th, he fell in with the troops commanded by Generals Reding and Vives, and completely dispersed them. He took from them six pieces of cannon, 30 caissons, and 3000 men. By means of the junction of the 7th corps with the troops under General Duhesme, we have a large army at Barcelona.

When his Majesty was at Tordesillas, he had his head-quarters in the outward buildings of the Royal Convent of St. Claire. It was to this convent that the mother of Charles V. had retired, and where she died. The Convent of St. Claire was built on the scite of a Moorish palace, of which about two halls remain in fine preservation. The Abbess was presented to the Emperor. She is 75 years of age, and for 65 years she had not gone out of her cloisters. She was considerably moved when she passed the threshold; but she conversed with the Emperor with much presence of mind, and obtained several favours for her friends.

TWENTY-SIXTH BULLETIN.

After General Gouvion de St. Cyr entered Barcelona, he proceeded to the Lobregat, and forced the enemy's intrenched camp, and took 25 pieces of cannon. He then took Tarragona, a place of great importance.

The troops of the kingdom of Italy have covered themselves with glory—their conduct has sensibly affected the Emperor. They are in truth chiefly composed of the corps formed by his Majesty in the campaign of the year five. The Italian picked men are as wise as they are brave; they have given rise to no complaint, and have shewed the greatest courage. Since the time of the Romans, the people of Italy had not made war in Spain. Since the Romans, no epoch has been so glorious for the Italian arms.

The army of the kingdom of Italy is already 80,000. strong and good soldiers. These are the guarantees which that fine country has of being no longer the theatre of war. His Majesty has removed his head-quarters from Benevente to Valladolid. He received to-day all the Constituted Authorities.

Ten of the worst of the lowest ranks have been put to death. They are the same who massacred Gen. Cevallos, and who for so long a time have oppressed the better sort of people.

His Majesty has ordered the suppression of the Dominican Convent, in which one Frenchman was killed. He testified his satisfaction at the Convent of San Penete, whose Monks are enlightened men, who, far from having preached war and disorder, of having shewn themselves greedy of blood and mur-

der, have employed all their cares and efforts to calm the people and bring them back to good order. Several Frenchmen owe their lives to them. The Emperor wished to see these religious men; and, when he was informed they were Benedictines, whose members have always rendered themselves illustrious in literature and science, both in France and Italy, he condescended to express the satisfaction he felt at owing this obligation to them. In general the Clergy of this city are good. The Monks who are dangerous are the fanatic Dominicans who had got possession of the Inquisition, and who having bathed their hands in the blood of a Frenchman, had the sacrilegious cowardice to swear on the Gospel that the unfortunate man who was demanded of them was not dead, and had been carried to an hospital, and who afterwards owned, that after he had been killed he was thrown into a well where he had been found. Barbarians and hypocrites, who preach intolerance, excite discord and blood, you are not the Ministers of the Gospel. The period when Europe beheld, without indignation, the massacre of Protestants celebrated by illuminations in great cities, can never be revived. The blessings of toleration are the first rights of man; it is the first maxim of the Gospel, because it is the first attribute of charity. If there was a time when some false teachers of the Christian Religion preached intolerance, they had not then in view the interest of Heaven, but those of their temporal influence; they wished to be powerful amongst ignorant people. When a Monk, a Theologist, a Bishop, a Pope, preaches intolerance, he preaches his own condemnation; he gives himself up to be the laughing-stock of nations.

General Davenoy proceeded with 500 cavalry to Toro. He came up with two or 300 men, the remains of the insurrection. He charged them, and killed or took the greater part. The Colonel of the Dutch hussars was wounded in the charge.

TWENTY-SEVENTH BULLETIN.

VALLADOLID, JAN. 9.—The Duke of Dalmatia, after the battle of Prievas, proceeded to expel the English from the post of Piedra Fella. He there took 1500 English prisoners, five pieces of cannon, and several caissons. The enemy was obliged to destroy a quantity of baggage and stores. The precipices were filled with them. Such were their precipitate flight and confusion, that the divisions of Lorge and Lahoussaye found among the deserted baggage, waggons filled with gold and silver; it was part of the treasure of the English army. The property fallen into our hands is estimated at two millions.

On the 4th, at night, the French advanced guard was at Castillo and Nocedo. On the 5th, the enemy's rear-guard was come up with at Pueste and Ferren, the moment it was going to blow up a bridge: a charge of cavalry rendered the attempt useless. It was the same at the bridge of Cruciel.

On the 5th, at night, Lorge and Lahoussaye's division were at Constantine, and the enemy a short distance from Lugo. On the 6th, the Duke of Dalmatia was on his march to reach that city.

The English army suffers considerably; it has no longer ammunition and baggage, and half the English cavalry is on foot. Since our departure from Benevente up to the 5th instant, we counted on the road 1800 English horses, that had been killed.

The remains of Romana's army are found wandering about in all directions. The remains of the army of Mayorca, of Iberia, of Barcelona, and of Naples, are made prisoners.

Gen. Maupetet having come up with, on the side of Zamora, with his brigade of dragoons, a column of 800 men, charged and dispersed them, and killed or took the greater part.

The Spanish peasantry of Galicia and Leon, have no mercy on the English. Notwithstanding the strictest orders to the contrary, we every day find a number of English assassinated.

The head-quarters of the Duke of Elchingen are at Villa Franca, on the confines of Galicia and Leon. The Duke of Belluno is on the Tagus. The whole of the Imperial Guard is concentrated at Valladolid. The cities of Valladolid, of Palencia, Segovia, Avilla, Astorga, Leon, &c. have sent numerous deputations to the King.

The flight of the English army, the dispersion of the remains of the armies of Romana and Estrammadura, and the evils which the troops of the different armies inflict upon the country, rally the provinces round the legitimate authority. The city of Madrid has particularly distinguished itself;—28,500 heads of families have taken the oath of allegiance upon the holy Sacrament. The citizens have promised his Imperial Majesty, that if he will place his brother on the throne, they will serve him with all their efforts, and defend him with all their means.

TWENTY-EIGHTH BULLETIN.

VALLADOLID, JAN. 13.—The part of the treasure of the enemy which has fallen into our hands is 1,800,000 francs.—The inhabitants assert that the English have carried off from eight to ten millions.

The English General deeming it impossible that the French infantry and artillery should have followed him, and gained upon him a certain number of marches, particularly in mountains so difficult as those of Galicia, thought he could only be pursued by cavalry and sharpshooters. He took therefore the position of Castro on his right, supported by the river Tombago, which passes by Lugo, and is not fordable.

The Duke of Dalmatia arrived on the 6th in presence of the enemy. He employed the 7th and 8th in reconnoitring the enemy, and collecting his infantry and artillery, which were still in the rear. He formed his plan of attack. The left only of the enemy was attackable—he manœuvred on their left.—His dispositions required some movements on the 8th, the Duke being determined to attack on the 9th—but the enemy retreated in the night, and in the morning our advanced guard entered Lugo. The enemy left 300 sick in the hospitals; a part of 18 pieces of cannon, and 300 waggons of ammunition. We made 700 prisoners.

The town and environs of Lugo are choaked with the bodies of English horses. Hence, upwards of 2500 horses have been killed in the retreat. The weather is dreadful—rain and snow fall continually.

The English are marching to Corunna in great haste, where they have 400 transports. They have already lost baggage, ammunition, a part even of their material artillery, and upwards of 3000 prisoners. On the 10th, our advanced guard was at Betanzos, a short distance from Corunna. The Duke of Elchingen is with his corps near Lugo.

In reckoning the sick, stragglers, those who have been killed by the peasants, and made prisoners by our troops, we may calculate the loss of the English at one third of their army. They are reduced to 18,000 men, and are not yet embarked. From Sahagun they retreated 150 leagues in bad weather, worse roads, through mountains, and always closely pursued at the point of the sword.

It is difficult to conceive the folly of their plan of campaign. It must be attributed not to the General who commands, and who is a clever and a skilful man, but to that spirit of hatred and rage which animates the English Ministry. To push forward in this manner 30,000 men, exposing them to destruction, or to flight as their only resource, is a conception which can only be inspired by the spirit of passion, or the most extravagant presumption. The English Government is like the liar in the play, who has told the same untruth so often, that at last he believes it himself.

Lugo was pillaged and sacked by the enemy. We cannot impute these disasters to the English General: it is the usual and inevitable effect of forced marches and precipitate retreat. The inhabitants of the kingdoms of Leon and Galicia hold the English in horror. Under this head, the events that have taken place are equivalent to a great victory.

Zamora, whose inhabitants had been animated by the presence of the English, shut their gates against Gen. Maupetet; Gen. Dorneau proceeded against it with four divisions—he scaled the city, took it, and put the most guilty to the sword. Galicia is the province of Spain which manifests the best disposition, it receives the French as deliverers, who have relieved them at once from foreigners and from anarchy. The Bishop of Lugo, and the Clergy of the whole province, manifest the wisest sentiments.

Valladolid has taken the oath to King Joseph. Six men the leaders of revolt and massacre of the French, have been con-

demned to death. Five have been executed. The Clergy asked pardon for the sixth, who is the father of four children. His Majesty commuted his sentence, and said, he wished thereby to testify his satisfaction of the good conduct of the secular Clergy of Valladolid on several important occasions.

TWENTY-NINTH BULLETIN.

VALLADOLID, JAN. 16.—The Duke of Bellana, on the 13th, defeated the Spaniards who were retreating in the direction of Alcazar, under the Commander Penegas, who was killed in the action. The consequence of this battle was the surrender of two Generals, 300 Officers, and 12,000 men.

[This Bulletin also contains a recapitulation of the Addresses of the Council of State, and other public bodies, at Madrid, to Napoleon.]

THIRTIETH BULLETIN.

"VALLADOLID, JAN. 21.—The Duke of Dalmatia left Betanzos on the 12th inst. Having reached the Mero, he found the bridge of Burgo cut. The enemy was dislodged from the village of Burgo. In the mean while Gen. Franceschi ascended the river, made himself master of the high road from Coruna to Santiago, and took six officers and 60 soldiers prisoners.

"On the 13th, the enemy caused two powder magazines, situated near the heights of St. Margaret, at half a league from Coruna, to be blown up. The explosion was terrible, and was felt at the distance of three leagues.

"On the 14th, the bridge at Burgo was repaired, and the French artillery was able to pass. The enemy had taken a position at two leagues distance, half a league before Corunna. He was seen employed in hastily embarking his sick and wounded, the numbers of which, according to spies and deserters, amounts to 3000 or 4000 men. The English were in the meanwhile occupied in destroying the batteries on the coast, and laying waste the country on the sea shore. The Commandant of the fort of St. Philip, suspecting the fate intended for his fortification, *refused to admit them in it.*

"On the evening of the 14th we saw a fresh convoy of 160 sail arrive, among which were four ships of the line.

"On the morning of the 15th, the divisions of Merle and Mermet occupied the heights of Villahoa, where the enemy's advanced guard was stationed, which was attacked and destroyed. Our right wing was stationed on the point where the road from Corunna to Lugo, and that from Corunna to Santiago meet. The left was placed behind the village of Elvina. The enemy was stationed behind some beautiful heights.

"The rest of the 15th was spent in fixing a battery of twelve pieces of cannon; and it was not till the 16th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, that the Duke of Dalmatia gave orders to attack.

"The assault was made upon the English by the first brigade of the division of Mermet, which overthrew them, and drove them from the village of Elvina. The 2d regiment of light infantry covered itself with glory. Gen. Jardon, at the head of the voltigeurs, wrought a terrible carnage. The enemy, driven from his positions, retreated to the gardens which surround Corunna.

"The night growing very dark, it was necessary to suspend the attack. The enemy availed himself of this to embark with precipitation. Only 6000 of our men were engaged, and every arrangement was made for abandoning the positions of the night, and advancing next day to a general attack. The loss of the enemy has been immense. Two of our batteries played upon them during the whole of the engagement. We counted on the field of battle more than eight hundred of their dead bodies, among which was the body of General Hamilton, and those of two other General Officers, whose names we are unacquainted with. We have taken 20 Officers, 300 men, and four pieces of cannon. The English have left behind them more than 1500 horses, which they had killed. Our loss amounts to 100 killed and 150 wounded.

"The Colonel of the 47th regiment distinguished himself. An Ensign of the 31st infantry killed with his own hand an English Officer, who had endeavoured to wrest from him his eagle. The General of Artillery, Bomgeat, and Colonel Fontenay, have signalized themselves.

"At day-break on the 17th, we saw the English convoy under sail. On the 18th, the whole had disappeared.

"The Duke of Dalmatia had caused a carronade to be discharged upon the vessels from the fort of Santiago. *Several transports ran aground, and all the men who were on board were taken.*

"We found in the establishment of the Palloza (a large manufactory, &c. in the suburbs of Corunna, where the English had previously been encamped), 3000 English muskets. Magazines also were seized, containing a great quantity of ammunition and other effects, belonging to the hostile army. A great numb[illegible] of wounded were picked up in the suburbs. The opinion of the inhabitants on the spot, and deserters, is, that the number of wounded in the battle exceeds 2500 men.

"Thus has terminated the English Expedition which was sent into Spain. After having fomented the war in this unhappy country, the English have abandoned it. They had disembarked 38,000 men and 6000 horses. We have taken from them, *according to calculation*, 6500 men, *exclusive of the sick.* They have re-embarked *very little baggage, very little ammunition*, and *very few horses.* We have counted 5000 killed and left behind. The men who have found an asylum on board their vessels are harassed and dejected. In any other season of the year not one of them would have escaped. The facility of cutting the bridges, the rapidity of the torrents, which in winter swell to deep rivers, the shortness of the days, and the length of the nights, are very favourable to an army on their retreat.

"Of the 38,000 men whom the English had disembarked, we may be assured that scarcely 24,000 will return to England.

"The army of Romana, which at the end of December, by the aid of reinforcements which it had received from Gallicia, consisted of sixteen thousand men, is reduced to less than five thousand, who are wandering between Vigo and Santiago, and are closely pursued. The kingdom of Leon, the province of Zamora, and all Gallicia, which the English had been desirous to cover, are conquered and subdued.

"The General of Division Lapisse has sent patroles into Portugal, who have been well received there.

"General Maupetit has entered Salamanca; he met there some sick of the English troops."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Lord SUFFOLK, as a military man, stated, that erroneous opinions had gone forth respecting the discipline of the army, which had been represented as being in a very bad state, but which, in his opinion, was in a much better state than it had been at any preceding period; and it was to his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief that the public were indebted for this important benefit.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Lord GROSVENOR gave notice, that on Tuesday next he would move, that the House should resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the State of the Nation.—Adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 3.

Nothing of public interest occurred in the House this day.—Adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Mr. WHITBREAD expressed great surprise that the late dispatch from Sir John Moore had not been published in the Gazette.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, that the letter in question was a private and confidential communication, and it was a disco

thing to separate the parts that were of that description and those which were not. So far as related to the conduct of Sir J. Moore, there was no objection to the publication of it, if it was the wish of his friends.

LATE NEGOCIATION.

Mr. Secretary CANNING moved the order of the day for taking into consideration the Papers relative to the late Overtures from Russia and France. He said he did not apprehend any difference of opinion on the question; for he could not conceive that in these overtures there was the least chance of negotiation with the least prospect of peace: such was the state of the public opinion during the correspondence, that people only feared lest Government should be entrapped into a fruitless negociation. The *unexampled atrocity* of Bonaparte's conduct towards Spain was a circumstance for which some atonement might have been demanded; but he did not think it was one for which such atonement ought to have been asked, however atrocious his violence might have been. And, although he thought posterity would never have to record a more abominable act, yet he did not think that should have retarded a negociation. The duty of Ministers seemed to be to ascertain the feelings of the enemy so as to know whether there was any change of peace. To have required, in the first instance, that the armies should evacuate Spain, as a *sine qua non* of negociation, would not have been proper on our part, as it would have given him a right to have made a similar demand on us, and do that for Spain, which Spain did not herself require. And equally improper would it have been to demand the restoration of the Spanish Monarchy. All that could be required of us was, to do only what Spain required. Ministers then did no more than demand that the Government *de facto*—that the persons exercising the powers of Government in that country, should be admitted as parties to the negociation. His Majesty's Government were justified in presuming that the Emperor of Russia was not dead to the rights of Sovereigns. They did expect that; and they had a right to hope that the conferences at Erfurth would have led to some favourable result. They could not avoid recollecting that Russia had in former periods been favourable to the Spanish Monarchy. At the conferences at Erfurth, Spain could not have been neglected—the eyes of all Europe were fixed upon that country. But what must be the *surprize* of his Majesty's Government to find, that in the overtures from Russia and France, Spain was studiously omitted. The subject was, however, brought forward by us; and the question was distinctly put, as to the intentions of France towards Spain. The answer was this, that in no shape should the Spanish people be admitted to the negociation. And see the reason which the enemy assigned for this declaration. It was, that they were in a state of rebellion:—and to whom? not to their legitimate Government, but to Joseph Bonaparte!! The whole question was, whether we should have gone to negociation with an admission that the Spanish people, with whom we had formed a treaty of alliance, were rebels, and ought to be punished as such? And see what a curious illustration Bonaparte made, "that the Spaniards were rebels to his brother, as the Catholics of Ireland were rebels to the Government of Great Britain. Now, if the Catholics were rebels, whom were they rebels to? To their lawful King? Were this Government then with a stroke of a pen to admit that a people who were struggling against a monstrous usurpation, should be punished as rebels? He knew not by what authority Government should have done so, except by bowing to the authority of Bonaparte himself. It was the fashion now a days to depreciate the present race of Sovereigns, and to recommend a renovation of the stock. It was our object to take and support Spain as we found it; and not to try any experiment of new modelling it to our purposes. During the very existence of the negociation, Bonaparte did declare his determination to depose the King of Spain, and seat his brother on the throne. But still there were people in this country who thought that we should stoop low, and degrade ourselves by submissions. But he trusted that if this country was to fall, one of the last things we should struggle for in these adverse waves, would be the preservation of our faith and honour. At the first moment of our joining the cause of Spain, the first object pursued, and the first principle recommended was, that our conduct towards Spain should not only be free from selfish objects, but even free from suspicion. Having gone on a line of honour towards that country, it became us to adhere to it, with more than ordinary perseverance. "*Græcia capta ferum victorem cepit*," was the consolation of ancient Greece, at being subjugated by foreigners. But no polish that a conqueror could ever introduce could make up for the loss of national independence. The resistence of the Spaniards was the noblest effort of national energy, and it was the duty of this country to support them; and it would have been a shameful breach of honour to have consented to any negociation by which they should be abandoned. The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded with moving an Address to his Majesty, approving of the conduct of his Majesty's Government in the late negociation, and assuring his Majesty of the support of that House in the just prosecution of the war.

Mr. WHITBREAD expressed his satisfaction at hearing some axioms of Government from the Right Hon. Gentleman, which if they had been pursued 16 years ago, the Bourbon Family might have remained on the Throne of France, and Bonaparte would never have risen from his original obscurity. The Right Honourable Secretary had stated, that whatever Government the people of a country supported, that was the legitimate Government of the country. But 17 years ago, when that axiom was held forth in that House, it was denied by the adherents of Mr. Pitt, and the supporters of it reproached with the name of *Jacobins*. Now with respect to the negociation in question, he condemned the language used in one of the official papers of the Right Hon. Gentleman, in which he had called the conduct of Bonaparte *atrocious*; yet, did he recollect that most atrocious act which he himself sanctioned last year—*the expedition to Copenhagen*? Was not the *partition of Poland* an atrocious act? Yet the actors were Catherine the Great, Frederick the Great, and the Emperor of Austria, all our former Allies! Look at our own *conduct in India*. (*Hear! hear!*) He did not produce these parallels to justify the atrocities of Bonaparte, but to shew how far the Right Hon. Gentleman was justified in using such language in an official dispatch. Let us not do deeds of dishonour in one part of the world, and then ride off and rail at deeds of dishonour in other places. He could see no reason why a studied insult should be given to the Chief of the French Government in the answer of the Right Hon. Gentleman to Count Romanzow, when he said the reason why the King would not answer the letter of the Emperor of Russia was, because it was signed by another person (Bonaparte) whom his Majesty would not acknowledge. He agreed it would have been highly improper in his Majesty to write a letter to Bonaparte; but there was no occasion to accompany the refusal with a taunt and an insult. Professions were made of the readiness of Gentlemen to make peace. He contended, if the conduct had been equal to the professions of the Government, we should have been at peace long ago. He condemned the declaration of the Right Hon. Gentleman, when he said that he rejoiced at the evils which the commercial regulations adopted by Government had inflicted on the enemy. Such a declaration was not only unworthy of a Christian Country, but untrue; because these regulations and restrictions never in the slightest degree impeded his progress. He contended we might have had a peace in 1800, and in 1806. In the late negociation he wished to know why the Prince of the Brazils, and the King of Sicily, were not proposed to be parties. At the time when Bonaparte found so many obstacles to the subjugation of Spain, he had thought that to be a favourable opportunity to negociate for peace. There was another opportunity when negociation might have been entered into with some prospect of success, and that was at the time of Joseph Bonaparte's flight from Madrid, and when his affairs in Spain were in a desperate situation. If ever we were to have peace, it must be with this man, whom we now insulted, and whose power was the greatest that ever existed on the face of the

earth. To say that France had no Monarchy, was not only impolitic, but wholly untrue. If Government meant to treat with an idea that there was not the least prospect of success, that must itself have defeated the object. This was the evil that Government had repeatedly run into. And he was confident it was highly improper to have proposed that the Spanish Deputies should have been admitted to the negotiation at Erfurth; for even after the conclusion of peace, there was nothing to prevent Bonaparte from marching his armies over the Pyrenees. He was afraid that the subjugation of Spain was effected. The allusion of the French Emperor to the Catholics of Ireland, was only a proof that he knew where the weakness of the British Government existed; and therefore it followed that it was the duty of Government to remove the cause of that weakness. Government could trust the Catholics to fight for England, and to fight for Spain; therefore it was their bounden duty to remove the shameful restraints they laboured under. He thought the negociation might have been carried on without any mention being made of Spain. But he was confident the Government never had done its utmost to attain the objects of peace. He felt that he was in a small minority in the opinions which he now delivered; but still the more imperious duty rested on him to maintain those opinions. He therefore again lamented, that the negociation had been abruptly broken off, because we should very shortly have no place on the Continent to contend on; and we must, some time or other, negociate for peace; and like the books offered by the Sybil to a King of Rome, the longer it was delayed, the dearer would be the purchase. Now, when the cause of Spain was hopeless, as it appeared to be, the moment should not be delayed. Perhaps at this moment Portugal was in possession of the enemy, and his eagles were planted on the walls of Lisbon. Much as he had hoped for the cause of Spain, those hopes were entirely gone; and he would send no more armies to Spain, where there was no prospect of success. He concluded with moving an amendment, the purport of which was, that the House did not think any disgraceful preliminaries had been required by Russia and France; to express disapprobation of the conduct of Ministers in proposing to admit Spain to the negociations, and at the language used by them toward France, which ought to have been conciliatory; and to request his Majesty to avail himself of any opportunity by which he might commence a negociation with France, for the attainment of such a peace as might be compatible with the honour and interest of the nation.

Mr. PONSONBY was sorry to differ from his Hon. Friend in his opinion respecting the negociation. He was confident that it was the duty of Ministers to require, as they had done, a quick and prompt answer from the Governments of France and Russia; and he did not think there was any chance or prospect of obtaining a peace.

Mr. CROKER argued, that we were invited by the notes containing the proposition for negociation, to bring our allies with us. If we had neglected the mention of Spain, was it not likely that the next French bulletin would have warned the Spaniards of the little reliance that was to be placed on our co-operation? He bore testimony to the loyalty of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, but hoped that the assertion of Bonaparte would not be made the text for Catholic Emancipation.

General MATHEW esteemed the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Canning), the only man of any political integrity amongst the present Ministers. He (Gen. Mathew) was not afraid of the cry of *Jacobinism*, however much it might be the system of certain Gentlemen on the other side to hold it out as a terror. He defied any man to say that the Catholics of Ireland were rebels. The person who presumed to say so deserved to die by the hands of the common executioner. He asserted that it was false, and that no communication had taken place between them and the French since the year 1796. The Right Hon. Gentleman talked of atrocities—never had more atrocities been committed by the most desperate despot than by the British Government. Of all despots the British Government had been the worst. How they dealt with Kings they wished to dethrone, his Hon. Friend (Sir A. Wellesley) could inform them. In the *East* they did not *imprison* Kings—*they murdered them*. He saw a Gentleman in the House who was Secretary of State in Ireland in the year 1798. He could tell the House what was then the situation of Ireland.—[*Here the Speaker called the Hon. Member to order.*]—Gen. Mathew said, other Members had introduced Ireland, and Catholics were alluded to. He would tell Earl Camden, if there ever was tyranny in any country, it was in Ireland under the administration of the Noble Lord.—[*The Speaker again called the Hon. Member to order.*]—Gen. Mathew said, then he must give up the year 1798, *the scalping*, and *all the rest*.—Being again called to order, he observed, that the best thing he could do was to sit down.

Sir F. BURDETT said, it might be disagreeable to the ears of Englishmen to have enumerated a train of occurrences more calamitous and improvident probably than had ever disgraced any nation on the face of the globe; but still, had he not been instructed by the superior judgment of the Speaker, he should have been of opinion that the Hon. Member who spoke last, was entitled to have proceeded, and might fairly have introduced any parallel instances of atrocity, when told, on the other side, that the act of the Emperor of the French, by which this country was precluded from listening to his overtures for peace, was an instance of the most *unparalleled* atrocity which had ever disgraced any country. Whatever were the merits of Bonaparte, (which unquestionably would not be fairly discussed in that House) it would, at least, be allowed, that he knew the best means of accomplishing the objects he had in view. The absurdity of acting on the divine right of Kings had been the misfortune of this reign. In support of it, we had made an unavailing waste of blood and treasure, but we had never yet embarked in any legitimate object. It suited the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Canning) to night to say, that the internal government of a country should not be interfered with. How did this doctrine accord with the idea of the contest in which for the last fifteen years we had been engaged in with the French, because they chose to alter their form of government? Instead of a monument to the memory of the Minister who involved us in such a war, *he deserved to lose his head on the scaffold*. In addition to the other losses our armies in Spain had sustained, he thought that the life of the gallant officer who commanded, to have been too dearly sold for Ferdinand the VIIth. As to the general state of the war in Spain, unless Ministers proceeded on the known fact of the enthusiasm of the country—if they presumed to take that information on light grounds, they had been guilty of a crime of the deepest magnitude. They should have been able to see that there would be three hundred thousand men in arms—that all the passes were secured—and that they would be able to fight with every advantage, not subject to the want of food, and that they would only have to fall, if they did fall, in the field of glory. If these things could not be ensured, then their duty was not to have landed a single man, but to have supplied the Spaniards with arms and other necessaries, which might have produced a prolongation of the war. Instead of which Ministers had contented themselves with sending only such a body of men as was sufficient to prevent disgrace to our arms, but not to save the nation from an aching heart. They presumed, too, to trust the British character and honour on the rotten plank of the Spanish Government, not excepting *even the Inquisition*. With respect to sending money to the Spaniards, it would have well become Ministers, before they called for a supply from the exhausted pockets of the people, to have returned the millions of which Spain had been some years ago *unjustly pillaged* by the Government of this country, and which *had gone to his Majesty* under the name of Droits of the Admiralty. This would only have been a restitution of their own property, and while it aided the Spaniards, would have cleared the character of this country. He confessed he would prefer to the Amendment now proposed, an Address to his Majesty, requesting that he would order an inquiry into the grievances of which the public had to complain, and that he would dismiss his present Ministers from his Councils. The House was called on for an Address of Thanks. He had no thanks to bestow. Kings were too much exposed to have adulation poured into

heir ear. It was the cause of the overthrow of too many of he Thrones of Europe. We had not heard that any of the King who had of late years fallen under the dominion of Bonapa te, were in *want of Courtiers*. It was fit that the King of E gland should occasionally hear the *truth* from his Commons. The Secretary of State had objected to the idea of this being a sinking country. He (Mr. Canning) might be rising, but the country was sinking. He (Sir F. Burdett) was of that op nion, and there was too much ground to believe it would sink still lower, if a reform did not speedily take place.

Lord H. PETTY was satisfied that no peace was to be ex]ected from the overtures at Erfurth, but on the abandonment of Spain; and that it was by arms, and not by negociation that the fate of Spain was to be decided. With regard to the observations so eloquently urged by the Hon. Baronet behind (Sir F. Burdett), as to the propriety of taking part in the cause of Spain, whether that was right or wrong, we had already made our election—our part was chosen, and an abandonment of it would have been alike detrimental to our honour and our interest. He did not think this a sinking country, but he was satisfied that nothing had been omitted by Ministers to render it so.

Mr. CANNING could not help expressing his astonishment and regret to hear the unqualified manner in which the Noble Lord had approved of the opinions delivered by the Hon. Baronet. To the *talents* of that Hon. Baronet, and to his *sincerity* also, no man was more willing to do justice than he was; but, without meaning any thing disrespectful to that Hon. Baronet, he was grieved to hear the Noble Lord declare such an entire concurrence in those sentiments of the Hon. Baronet, which appeared so dangerous in their nature and character. If the evils which the Hon. Baronet deplored were so grievous, why not propose some practicable remedy for the grievances complained of, and not continue to repeat his doctrine, that the whole frame of the Government was not worth preserving—[*A loud cry of "No! No!—Misrepresentation!"—from the Opposition Benches.*]—The Right Hon. Gentleman vindicated the Replies given to the Notes of the Russian and French Ministers; and contended that there was no just ground for the desponding language which was used with regard to Spain. On the contrary, the hope he entertained at the outset, he still cherished, that if Spain were true to itself, it could not fail to triumph.

Lord H. PETTY thought it a very singular proof of unqualified approbation, with regard to the sentiments of the Hon. Baronet, that he was about to vote against him. At the same time he could not hesitate to repeat, that in the principal part of the sentiments which the House had this night heard from the Hon. Baronet, and which were delivered with an eloquence such as could not be soon forgotten, he cordially concurred.

Sir F. BURDETT deprecated the promulgation of an opinion that he had uttered any sentiments injurious to the interests of the country. He appealed to the House whether the course he pursued this night, in reprobating the *abuses* that prevailed in the *Administration of Government*, could be fairly deemed inconsistent with the profound veneration which he felt for the *genuine Constitution* of this country?

Mr. CANNING said, that his allusion to the Hon. Baronet's speech referred to the phrase of "absurdly contending for loyalty."

Sir F. BURDETT explained his meaning that the argument respecting loyalty in Spain was pushed to an extremity inconsistent with the freedom of any nation, and particularly with the constitution of this land.

Mr. CANNING's motion was agreed to.—Adjourned.

ednesday, Feb. 1.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

On the motion of Mr. WARDLE, the House resolved into a Committee, to inquire into the conduct of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, touching the disposal of Commissions in the Army—Mr. Wharton in the Chair.

Mr. WARDLE hoped that in the statements he had already made, he had not uttered a word which could justify a suspicion that he was actuated either by party motives, or any thing like personal animosity towards the Commander in Chief. He had never kept any thing a secret from the House; and God forbid he should attempt to sustain his charges by any proofs but such as it became a man of honour to offer. He felt it necessary, however, to advert to some strong remarks which had fallen from a Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Yorke) on a former night, which, he thought, might better have been omitted. He had a right to appear in his place as a Member of Parliament, the accuser of the Commander in Chief; and it was the privilege of Gentlemen on the other side of the House candidly to deliver their opinions on the subject; but he did not expect to be attacked in his personal character, or his conduct imputed to private motives, without any foundation in justice. Much was said about the *licentiousness of the press*, the *spirit of jacobinism*, and of *a conspiracy to overturn the illustrious House of Brunswick*. Nothing, however, which he had said had any thing to do with the licentiousness of the press. There was no man within or without that House who abhorred jacobin principles more than himself, *unless by jacobin was meant an enemy to corruption*, for such he was, whether it existed in great or little men; and as to conspiracy against the House of Brunswick, if any man presumed to charge such a motive to him, it was the duty of that man openly and manfully to follow up the accusation by proofs. As to jacobinism indeed, if his principles had tended that way, he should have adopted a contrary conduct; and, instead of opposing, had cherished corruption, until it undermined the Government. His object, on the contrary, was to check corruption, to serve his country, and to prevent in time those dreadful effects which are the certain consequences of corruption. A Right Hon. Gentleman had said on the former night, that he could give no credit to the charges against the Commander in Chief, because he had been so intimately acquainted with him for twenty years, that had any such transactions taken place, he must have known of them; but, as he knew of none such, the charges must in consequence be false. He would, however, undertake to prove the existence not merely of those comparatively slight transactions under investigation, but of others to a most enormous amount, which, most probably, were unknown to the Right Hon. Gentleman, and which were the cause of the breach between Mrs. Clarke and his Royal Highness. He was aware of the difficulties opposed to him in such a pursuit. He was aware there were many Members in that House, who might be supposed to lean more toward the Commander in Chief than towards a private individual like himself.—[*Order, order, order!*]—He threw himself upon the honour, the candour, and indulgence of the Committee, and without trespassing further on their attention, would proceed to evidence.

Mr. YORKE said, so far from casting any censure on the Hon. Gentleman, or imputing to him any hostile motives towards the Duke of York, he said his Royal Highness must feel obliged to him for putting the rumours, long industriously propagated on this subject, into a tangible shape. What he had said about Jacobinism and licentiousness of the Press, had no relation at all to the Hon. Gentleman, but applied to other topics, which must have been passing at the moment in every man's mind who heard him, and not to what fell from the Hon. Gentleman.

Mr. WARDLE then read an extract from the *London Gazette*, of the 30th of July, 1805, announcing the promotion of Col. Brooke, from the 50th Regiment to the 5th Dragoon Guards, vice Lieut.-Col. Knight, exchanged, and said he gave this as competent proof of the exchange.

The first witness called was *Dr. Andrew Thynne*. But before his examination, Mr. WARDLE assured the Committee, that he very reluctantly, and against the Gentleman's own wishes, called him as a witness. He had no other concern in the business than merely the inadvertent delivery of a message, which, upon maturer reflection, he most probably would have declined.

Dr. Thynne said, he had attended Mrs Clarke, professionally, for the last seven years. He attended that Lady in July last. He was employed by Lieut.-Col. Knight, an old friend of his, to interest Mrs. Clarke in an exchange that a brother of that officer wished to effect. He was desired to inform the lady, that if she should succeed in prevailing upon his Royal Highness to accede to the proposed exchange, that she should receive a reward of 200l. provided she would endeavour to ex

pedite the business as quickly as it was possible. Mrs. Clarke readily agreed to do so. He believed that Mrs. Clarke had a sufficient ascendancy over his Royal Highness to obtain such a favour, and it was pretty well known that Mrs. Clarke possessed such an influence, she being entirely, as he believed, under the protection of the Commander in Chief.—[*Loud cries of hear! hear! from the Opposition.*] He could not recollect the precise time when he had last seen Mrs. Clarke. He said, if Mrs. Clarke received any money for what she had done, she got it from another quarter, and not through his hand. He did not know whether or not Mrs. C. had applied to the Duke of York for the exchange, as it was out of his power accurately to ascertain so delicate a fact. He said he would not have applied to Mrs. C., had it not been known and generally understood that she was under the protection of a Great Personage. He was asked by a Member who he meant by a Great Personage, and he replied, the Commander in Chief to be sure.—*(A laugh)* He went on to state, that Mrs. C. wrote down the name of Mr. Knight, and she sent the witness a Gazette in which the exchange was announced, with a note, stating that the exchange had been completely accomplished. She added, that as she was going out of town in a day or two, 200l. would be very convenient.—*(A laugh)*—These were the contents of Mrs. C.'s note, as nearly as he could recollect them. He said he could not remember any thing more. He was asked by Sir F. Burdett whether Mrs. C. had ever told him she had personally applied to the Duke of York. The witness replied, he had no recollection of any such communication from Mrs. C. She desired him to conceal the fact of the money she was to receive from the world, and his Royal Highness most particularly.—*(A laugh.)*

Mr. Robert Knight was examined. He admitted he had authorized Dr. Thynne to apply to Mrs. Clarke, on the subject of an exchange for his brother. He held out to that lady a temptation to the amount of 200l. and after the exchange had been effected, he sent the lady the promised sum in a blank cover. The exchange was effected for her with a Col. Brook, of the 86th regiment, and Mrs. Clarke assured him the Duke had no objection to the exchange, provided a successor could be found in Col. Brook's place. The witness added that he made it an especial point to wait on Mrs. Clarke, and thank her for what she had done. He saw her again about two weeks since, and she pressed the witness for the name of the gentleman who had exchanged with his brother. He told her he trusted she did not wish that information with any view to do his brother an injury. On which she said, "Oh, good God! no." She then informed the witness that his Royal Highness had quitted her entirely, leaving her considerably in debt, and she was determined to expose his conduct as far as she possibly could. She seemed much hurt at his Royal Highness having deserted her, leaving her in so forlorn a situation, and vowed to make him smart for it, if she could in any way bring such a thing round. Q. In his conversation with Mrs. C. did he understand from her that she had in fact applied to the Commander in Chief? A. She took credit to herself for having effected the exchange. Q. Did he ever learn from Mrs. C. that she had actually applied to the Duke of York? A. She told him she had. Q. *(by Col. Wardle.)* At the time the application was made, did witness understand the Duke of York and Mrs. Clarke were living upon terms of intimacy? *(Question overruled.)* Q. Did Mrs. C. live in Gloucester-place when the application was made? A. Yes. Q. Whether, after she said she had applied to the Duke, did she express any wish that that transaction should be kept secret. A. Yes. Q. Did he send the money for any other purpose than that of effecting the exchange? A. Certainly not. Q. Did she express a wish to him that the fact of her having received the 200l. should be kept secret from the Duke of York, or that the whole transaction should be kept secret? A. She [illegible] the business should be kept secret from the [illegible]t Col. Knight had very satisfac- [illegible]easons for effecting the exchange, [illegible]ommended it to the proper office.

Mrs. Clarke examined.

[*Mrs. Clarke* appeared at the bar, accompanied by a *Miss Clifford*, and with apparent composure curtsied to the House. She wore a light blue silk pelisse, bordered with deep lace, a lilac-coloured velvet bonnet, partially concealed beneath the foldings of a veil, which hung over her forehead, and carried upon her arm a large swandown muff.—Miss Clifford was ordered to withdraw, as she had not been summoned to attend.]

Q. Did the witness reside in Gloucester-place, in the house of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, in July, 1805? A. Yes, I did. Q. Were you under his protection? A. Yes.

[Here Mr. FULLER rose to ask a question of the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Wardle.)—*(Loud cry of Hear!—Order!)* I have, said he in a loud tone, a right to ask it. The Hon. Gentleman has put a question to the witness—whether she was not under the protection of the Duke of York?—I now ask him, whether that *beautiful* lady is not under the Hon. Gentleman's *protection?—(Loud laughter, and cries of Order.)*—The Chancellor of the Exchequer did not think, that in the present stage of this business, such a question ought to be put.]

Q. Did Dr. Thynne make any application to you respecting an exchange of commissions between Lieut.-Colonels Knight and Brooke? A. He did. Q. Did he make you a promise of any pecuniary compensation? A. He did; 200l. Q. Did he tell you that Lieut.-Col. Knight had been long anxious for an exchange? A. He did. Q. Did you mention the subject to the Duke of York? A. I told him of the solicitation, and gave him a slip of paper containing their names. Q. Did you tell him of the 200l. A. *I told him that I expected they would make me a compliment.* Q. Did you send the *Gazette* containing the exchange to Dr. Thynne. A. Yes. Q. After this communication, did you receive any money? A. Two hundred pounds. Q. How was it sent to you? A. In a note with Dr. Thynne's compliments. Q. After this, did you make a communication on the subject to the Duke of York? A. *I certainly did.* Q. Relate what passed, and tell whether he found fault with your conduct? A. I told him the parties had kept their promise. Q. Did the Duke know the amount of your receipts? A. *I shewed him the note; and one of his servants, through him, got it changed for me.* Q. Do you know Mr. Robert Knigh? A. I do. Q. Did he ever call on you? Yes: in September. Q. You spoke on the present subject? A. I believe we did. Q. Did you desire him to preserve secrecy? A. I might: but do not exactly recollect; I did not wish it to be spoken of. Q. Did you not enjoin particular secrecy, lest the Duke of York might hear of the transaction? A. No. Q. Are you quite positive? A. Oh no; certainly never; nothing like it. Q. Are you sure? A. Quite positive. Q. When you told the Duke of the compliment, what did he say? A. I do not recollect; believe he said they had been speaking of *a bad subject*; nothing but this. Q. When you received the compliment, did he say nothing? A. Not that I recollect; the business was finished. Q. When did you tell the business to Col. Wardle? A. It was lately. Q. Why did you tell the business at all to Col. Wardle? A. He had heard it, and attacked me on it. Q. Had you any knowledge of Col. Wardle before that period? A. Yes; about six months before. Q. What led to the acquaintance? A. *Himself.—(A laugh.)* Q. Were you voluntary in your relation, or did he make the application? A. He mentioned the circumstances to me, and I acknowledged the truth of them; were it not that I knew he had heard them, I would have been very apt to deny them altogether. Q. Did you communicate them to any other person? A. I do not recollect; I might. Q. In your account to Col. Wardle, did you differ from that which you have given here to-day? A. I did. Q. Pray, Madam, which of your accounts are true? A. Both, Sir. Q. Then if true, why did you say they differed? A. They are both true, and yet different. I have to-day gone more into *detail* than in any relation to Colonel Wardle.—*(Hear! hear!)* Q. Which have you been most brief in? A. In that to Col. Wardle. Q. Did you tell all to him which you have told to-day? A. No. Q. Do you recollect the day on which Dr. Thynne applied? A. No; I

do not remember either the day of the week, or of the month. Q. No? A. No: no such trifles. Q. Have you now told all which you told him? A. I have answered that question already. Q. Answer it again? A. I have stated, I told the House the circumstances more in detail than in my relation to Col. Wardle. Q. What did you tell to-day which you did not tell him? A. I do not think an answer necessary.

[Here the witness was ordered to withdraw, and a short verbal discussion took place, in which the Attorney General disclaimed any disrespect to Col. Wardle in the former or future course of his examination.]

Mrs. CLARK again called in.—Q. How did you differ in your relation now, and in that which you gave to Colonel Wardle? A. I did not tell him that I shewed the Duke the note, nor did say much to him, since he heard the facts from others; he asked was it true, and I told him it was.—Q. Pray did you mean to tell him, even had he not asked? A. I do not recollect; perhaps I did, and perhaps I did not.—Q. Had you any object in mentioning it? A. None whatever.—Q. Did you never complain of the Duke of York's treatment of you? A. All my friends knew of that.—Q. I ask you, did you not say that unless the Duke complied with your demands, you would expose him to the world? A. I did state in a letter to Mr. W. Adam, that unless the annuity which both he and the Duke guaranteed to me was paid, I would publish the letters of the Duke to the public. Mr. Adam had said I should be paid.—Q. Did you not say, that unless the Duke of York came to your terms, you would expose him? A. No; never; nor do I willingly make it public now.—Q. Did you say you would expose the Duke in only one letter? A. I might have stated it in two.—Q. Did you offer threats in both letters? A. No; I used *threats* in neither, only *solicitation*. Mr. W. Adam, however, has both the letters; I beg he may produce them.—Q. Did you not say you would expose the Duke of York? A. No; *but Mr. Adam had better produce the letters.—(a laugh.)*—Q. Did you never say so to any other person? A. No.—Q. Nor words to that effect? A. I have said so.—Q. Did you tell Colonel Wardle you had the £200 for any particular purpose? A. No.—Q. Did you tell Mr. R. Knight that you would expose the Duke of York? A. No; I told him I would publish the Duke's letters, and pay my creditors, which he had refused to do.—*(A loud laugh.)—His Royal Highness wanted to insist on my pleading my marriage, in order to avoid my debts, or else go to prison.*—Q. When was that message sent you? A. About six weeks ago; my lawyer can tell.—Q. Who is your lawyer? A. Mr. Stokes; he received the message.—Q. Who carried the message? A. Some one belonging to Mr. Adam; he was *a sort of a lawyer.—(A laugh.)*—Q. Did Mr. Knight come voluntarily, or did you send for him? A. I knew him, and wrote to him to come. Q. Did you, in your letter, tell him you would expose the Duke? A. No; it was a common letter, such as *I am often in the habit of writing—(A laugh.)*—Q. Pray are you a married woman? A. *Mr. Adam can tell—(A laugh.)*—Q. I wish to know when and where you were married? A. It is a matter of no consequence; but if it is, ask Mr. Adam, he knows all about me.—*(Loud laughing.)*—Q. Pray, Madam, are you a married woman? A. Indeed, Sir, I have no reason to doubt it. Q. Are you married? A. Yes. Q. How long? A. Mr. Adam has my certificate—*(A laugh)*—It is, I believe, about 14 or 15 years since I was married. Q. Is your husband alive? A. I do not know. Q. Did you never swear you were a widow? A. I recollect when I once wrote to the Duke of York for 200 or 300l. the answer he sent me was, that he would put me in the pillory or *the bastile*, supposing that I had once sworn that I was a widow. I will explain the grounds on which he formed that unfounded supposition: I was once examined on a Court Martial, where the answer I gave to the question whether I was married or not was, that it would be highly indecorous in me, *whose connections with the Duke was publicly known*, to own such a circumstance; from this it crept into the minutes of the Court, that I had sworn I was a widow; but I did no such thing; and so far from it, I even afterwards told the Deputy-Advocate, whom I met in private, that I was a married woman. The Gentleman is without, and may be called in. Q. Who brought that message? A. *A particular friend* of the Duke's—Mr. *Taylor*, a *shoe-maker* in Bond-street—*(A laugh.)*—Q. Pray, by whom did you send your desires to the Duke? A. By my *own pen*. Q. I wish to know who brought the letter? A. Why, the same *Ambassador of Morocco—(Loud laughing. The witness was here called to order by the Speaker, and admonished to be more circumspect, or she would receive the censure of the House.)*—Q. What is your husband's name? A. Clarke. Q. Where were you married? A. Mr. W. Adam can tell. Q. Did you not say you were married in Berkamstead Church? A. No; I merely laughed at it when I heard it. Q. Did you ever see Mr. Alderman Clarke, or do you now believe that your husband was his nephew? A. I don't recollect having seen Mr. Alderman Clarke, and as to my husband, I never took any pains to ascertain any thing respecting him since I quitted him. He is nothing to me, nor I to him. Q. What was your husband? A. He was a man. Q. But what profession was he of? A. None that I know of, but his father was a builder.

Mrs. Clarke was then interrogated about her places of residence, and said she had lived in Tavistock-place, and that she had lived with the Duke of York in Park-lane before she had lived in Gloucester-place. She acknowledged that she had known the Duke of York for a great number of years; but she did not think these were fair questions, considering that she was a married woman, and had a family, and daughters growing up. She was not under the Duke's protection when first she lived in Tavistock-place.

Q. by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—Had she not represented herself to be a widow, and sworn so upon a former occasion? A. She never did represent so upon oath; she had been examined before a Court Martial at Colchester, and the Judge Advocate, who was a man who shewed much more feeling than the person who last examined her *(a loud laugh)*, told her, that there were some questions he should not ask her in public Court. He afterwards asked her in private whether she was a widow or not, and she said she was. This answer got upon the minutes of the Court Martial, but in giving it she thought not only of saving the reputation of herself and family, but of his Royal Highness, as *he also was a married man*. Q. Pray have you not threatened the Duke of York, that if he did not comply with your terms, you would put letters relating to the transactions of the last fourteen years, into the hands of those who would comply with your terms? A. I do not recollect what I might have said. I was extremely angry at the time of my writing that letter.

After some further questions of less importance, she was asked, did she ever know Major Hogan? She replied, she never knew the man, or saw him in her life, nor did she ever hear his name till after the pamphlet. A note was afterwards sent to her *from Mr. Greenwood*, expressing surprise at her being acquainted with Mr. Finnerty. She replied, that she knew nothing about Mr. Finnerty, nor had even seen him in the course of her life.

She was then examined by Mr. CROKER, with respect to her conversation with Mr. Robert Knight, after the payment of the £200. Her answer was, that Mr. Knight had called on her, and asked her whether the Duke paid her the annuity which he had given her, and she replied that he did not, and that she should publish his letters, and pay her creditors. Mr. Knight then begged her to spare him and his brother.

She was then examined respecting the conversations she had had with Colonel Wardle on this subject? She answered, that she had more than one conversation with him on this subject. She had no idea that she would have been called to answer before the House of Commons, until she saw it in the newspaper on Saturday. She was very angry with him, and attacked him severely for what he stated about her friend Mr. Donovan. She was very unwilling to give evidence upon the transaction; but Colonel Wardle told her, that if she did not, the House would commit her, and send her to the place that they sometimes sent the Sheriffs.

She was next asked, by whom the message was brought to her from Mr. Greenwood, respecting Mr. Finnerty? She answered, it was by Mr. Taylor, who told her that she was considered to be intimate with all the pamphlet-writers. She denied then, and still does deny, that she was at all connected with them. She also positively denied that she had desired Mr. Robert Knight, or any other person, to conceal the transaction of the 200l. from the Duke of York. Colonel Wardle took away a parcel of letters from her, without her consent, and she believed that this was the circumstance which principally led to this business, although he probably had received a good deal of similar information from other quarters. Col. Wardle had frequently run away with different notes of her's before, but she did not know what had been his object. The Colonel used to say, he would take away all her love letters.

On being examined by Lord STANLEY, *she again positively asserted that she had shewn the 200l. to the Duke of York the day she received it, and that one of his servants got it changed for her.*

Sir F. BURDETT asked her whether on many other occasions she had not received money for similar purposes? She said that she was told that she was not this night to be asked any questions, except with respect to this one transaction.—Mrs. Clarke then withdrew.

Mr. Adam was then examined as an evidence, and asked, was the statement of the last witness true as respecting him?—Mr. Adam said, that in the year 1789, he was first desired to look into some concerns of the Duke of York's. He had since that time given the *strictest attention* to those concerns, not in a professional capacity, but *gratuitously*. It came to his knowledge late in 1803, that Mrs. Clarke's husband had threatened the Duke of York with an action of damages, for criminal conversation with his wife. Upon this, he directed diligent inquiries to be made respecting Mrs. Clarke, and found that the account she had given of herself was not correct; and thinking that her conduct was such as would be likely to be very prejudicial to his Royal Highness, not with respect to his *character*, but his *pecuniary circumstances* he had laid before the Duke of York all the information he had collected. The Duke of York was *slow* to believe any thing against her, but being *at length convinced*, he resolved *to part with her*, and sent him with a short note to her, announcing this determination. This communication was accompanied with a declaration that his Royal Highness would pay her an annuity of 400l. per annum as long as she *behaved correctly*; but that he would give no bond or writing to that effect, and should always consider himself at liberty to withdraw it *if she did not act correctly*. Mrs. Clarke appeared extremely surprised, but not exasperated, at this communication. She expressed a determination to see his Royal Highness, and seemed to entertain strong hopes that she could make him change his resolution.

Colonel Wardle was then examined with respect to the parts of Mrs. Clarke's testimony alluding to him. He confirmed her testimony in this respect, that there never was more than one regular conversation between them upon the subject, although he had touched on the subject at various times, and collected several things from her, of which he regularly made entries in a book. His information was, however, derived from other quarters besides Mrs. Clarke.

Question by Mr. Canning.—Did Mrs. Clarke state to the Hon. Gentleman that she wanted to go into the country? A. She stated to him that she wanted to go into the country, and told his Royal Highness there was 200l. to be got by this exchange; and she did go into the country. Q. Did she state that she told his Royal Highness, previous to receiving the money, her desire to go into the country, and her means of doing so, and that the acceptance of this money enabled her to do so? A. He understood from her that when she made the report to the Commander in Chief, she informed him she was to receive a pecuniary consideration.

Question by Mr. Wharton with respect to the letters which had been mentioned to have been taken from Mrs. Clarke by the Hon. Gentleman,—Had Mrs. Clarke more than once required the Hon. Gentleman to return them? A. She had, and expressed great warmth and dissatisfaction at what was stated about the business in the House of Commons.

Colonel Gordon, Secretary to the Duke, was also examined. He positively stated, that all promotions or exchanges that took place in the army, had always been effected in the ordinary course of rotation. This rule was observed in the exchange of Colonels Knight and Brooke. The recommendation came in on the 23d, and the exchange was Gazetted on the 30th July, 1805.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER now proposed that the Committee should adjourn till Friday next, giving the Hon. Member (Mr. Wardle) an opportunity to collect his other witnesses; and as he had several more charges to prove, the Right Hon. Chancellor would take the liberty of asking upon which he would next enter.

Mr. WARDLE replied, that this must depend upon the arrival of Capt. Huxley Sanden with the Royal Waggons at Portsmouth, and of Gen. French from the West Indies.

Mr. ADAM said, that the present was one of the most *cruel* and severe cases that he had seen for a length of time. His Royal Highness the Duke of York was charged with matters of the most criminal kind; and notice was given of this charge at the earliest period of the Session, when military men were absent on duty, or had fallen by the sword. The Hon. Member would recollect, that there were other charges which he had to establish. Many of the persons mentioned in the opening of the Hon. Member's charge were known to be in London; and therefore his Royal Highness was not to be placed in the *cruel* situation of *suspense*.

Mr. WARDLE said, that there was one charge (that respecting Capt. Maling) upon which he was prepared to go at once.

It was ordered that the Committee should sit again on Friday.—Adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 2.

In reply to a question put by Mr. WHITBREAD, whether, during his absence in Portugal, Sir A. Wellesley received the salary and held the situation of Chief Secretary for Ireland? the Hon. Baronet said that he certainly had.—Mr. Whitbread then observed that he should make a specific motion on the subject.

The Militia Transfer Bill, after some opposition, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday.—Adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 3.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply,

Mr. WARD moved, that one hundred and thirty thousand seamen, including four thousand marines, be voted for the service of the Navy for the ensuing year. He then proposed to grant the sum of 3,126,100l. for wages for one hundred and thirty thousand seamen, at the rate of 1l. 17s. per man per month. Also the sum of 4,985,500l. for victualling his Majesty's ships; and 2,295,500l. for the wear and tear of ships. He then said he had to congratulate the House on the circumstance of the number of men now actually employed in his Majesty's navy exceeding the numbers voted. The several sums were voted.

Mr. WARD then moved to grant five hundred thousand pounds for the ordnance for the sea service.—Agreed to.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

The House went into a Committee on the Charges against the Commander in Chief.

Mr. WARDLE wished to correct an error in his testimony on Wednesday. He said he had not seen Mrs. Clarke on Tuesday morning; but he now recollected that he had seen her that morning. It was impossible to be accurate in such matters, as he had been lately in the habit of going very often to that lady's house.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL asked Mr. Wardle whether he had received information on this subject from Mr. Finnerty? Mr. Wardle answered he had not. When Major Hogan's pamphlet appeared, he had an interview with Mr. Finnerty on that subject, but found that he had no information whatever to give.

Mr. PERCEVAL said that Mrs. Clarke had sworn that Mr.

Wardle had not seen her on Tuesday, as she had been out all day; but the Hon. Gentleman's evidence totally contradicted her, as he had seen her twice on that day.

Mr. ADAM produced two letters from Mrs. Clarke to him. These letters stated that the annuity of four hundred pounds a year promised by the Duke of York had not been paid; that the Duke was devoid of honour and principle; that unless the Duke would do her justice, she would publish his letters to the world, and all the circumstances of his connection with her; that he was much in her power, but she wished to avoid exposing him; that she hoped he would protect her son, who could not be answerable for his parents misconduct; that unless she was righted, she would give the letters up to Gentlemen who were as opulent as the Duke, and more independent, who would relieve her distresses. Mr. Adam stated that he read these letters to the Duke, who neither betrayed nor expressed any apprehensions as to what Mrs. Clarke could do.—The child alluded to was not the Duke of York's, though under his protection.

Mr. BERESFORD thought that the examination should be stopped, as nobody could believe such an infamous woman as Mrs. Clarke; but Mr. PERCIVAL said, it was necessary that the case should go on, in order fully to shew that Mrs. Clarke's evidence was unworthy credit. The question was, whether the Duke of York had conducted himself corruptly in granting Commissions for the purpose of putting money into the pockets of those whom he wished to favour. This charge depended entirely on the evidence of Mrs. Clarke, and it was important to prove that this woman had given false testimony. There was no doubt that she had received money, but it must be proved that the Duke of York knew of it, and it had influenced his conduct, or else no criminality could rest upon his Royal Highness.

Ludovic Armor, a footman, who had been 18 years in the Duke of York's service, said, that he had been in the habit of going to the Duke at Gloucester Place for four years; *that none of his other servants ever went there*; that he had seen Mrs. Clarke once, when he took a favourite dog of his Royal Highness to shew her; that he was never employed *to get a note changed by any person there*; that there were three other men servants employed, but not the Duke's; that he had carried letters from the Horse Guards to Gloucester Place, which he delivered to *Favourite*, the house-keeper; that the Duke never went in his carriage to Gloucester Place; nor did he know that the Duke employed a valet at Gloucester Place.

Mr. WARDLE said, that he should have a witness to examine respecting this evidence on Tuesday next.

Mr. ADAM was asked by Mr. Wardle whether (as he had stated that he had served the Duke of York gratuitously) he had not a son who was a Lieutenant-Colonel? and what his age was when he was made a Colonel? Mr. Adam answered, that his son had entered the army at a very early period; that he had served in various parts with the greatest credit, and that at the age of 21, he rose to the situation of Lieut Colonel without any solicitation, he (Mr. Adam) having merely stated a circumstance in his favour, which he left entirely to the Duke of York's consideration. Mr. Adam said, he should trespass for a moment longer on the patience of the House, by producing an anonymous letter he had very recently received, and which he should never have thought of, were it not for the questions that had just been put to him. The letter began by abusing him for the part he had taken in defending the Duke of York, as well as having been, for many years, his confidential agent in his letchery;—transactions for which he nearly deserved the name of a pimp; and that, for these services, one of his sons was made a Colonel, and his other son got a ship. The letter was written in *red ink*; the writer observing, that he *blushed* for him. The writer also stated, that on the decision of the question then before the House would depend its eternal d—m—n or acquittal in the opinion of mankind.

Mr. ELLISON thought the letter ought to treated with contempt.

Mr. FULLER insisted, that this letter was a threat, tending to prevent a Member of the House from doing his duty. A reward of five thousand pounds should be offered to find out the infamous author.

Mr. LITTLETON thought the whole of the letter ought to be expunged from the minutes.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, if the evidence stood on the minutes, the letter ought also to stand.

Colonel WARDLE said, he by no means meant to impute to the Hon. Gentleman any thing like undue influence over the Duke of York. It was the system of which he complained, in the instance of Capt. Maling getting his promotion. He was made an Ensign in the year 1805, a Lieutenant in 1806, and a Captain soon thereafter, and he was now Lieut.-Colonel of the Royal African Corps. He had obtained these promotions in less than three years. The Hon. Gentleman complained, that while promotions were showered down upon one individual, there were many subalterns in the army, who had served longer than Capt. Maling, who had seen service in all parts of the world, many of them having been wounded; whereas Capt. Maling had been speedily promoted. The Hon. Gentleman insisted that this was a very striking instance of favouritism, and that it was completely subversive of quiet and order among officers in the army.

Colonel Gordon stated that in 1805, Capt. Maling was appointed to an Ensigncy; in 1806 to a Lieutenantcy, to which he was fully entitled; that soon after, Lieut. Maling was recommended to a company in the African Corps, but did not go abroad; and that on Gen. Fraser's application to have him as his Aid-de-Camp, his Royal Highness did not object, as long as Capt. Maling's detachment of the corps remained at Guernsey. Col. Gordon being asked by Mr. Wardle whether a number of subalterns, who had served much longer than Capt. Maling, had not been passed by, although they had signified their wish to purchase? The Colonel answered, that a great number unquestionably had, but he begged to observe, that it was the practice of the army, that no *junior Officer* should be promoted over a *senior* in the *same regiment*. This regulation did not extend to the routine of the whole army. Being asked whether Col. Pigott was not promoted over a senior Major in his regiment, Col. Gordon said, that the *general* practice was as he had stated; but that Col. Pigott had been *specially* recommended by Gen. Tarleton. Mr. Wardle here asked Col. Gordon what were the services of Capt. Maling's brother, who was also a Captain?—The Colonel replied, that the gentleman was his assistant in the Duke of York's Office; that he was of great use in the office to him; and that he had recommended him to the Commander in Chief to be put on half pay, which his Royal Highness meant to do; that he believed that Capt. Maling had never seen any service whatever in any corps. The Commander in Chief was most particular in his attendance to the duties of his office, where he was every morning at ten o'clock, and he required that the business should be conducted in a clear and methodical manner.

Mr. PERCIVAL proposed that the Chairman should report progress, and asked when Mr. Wardle would be ready to proceed?

Mr. WARDLE said he would name a day on Monday. He could not discover where Mrs. Shaw was, as she had left Bath.

Mr. CANNING thought it very strange that Mr. Wardle was not prepared to proceed.

Mr. W. SMITH conceived that a fair time should be allowed the Hon. Gentleman to bring his witnesses, and that he should not be treated with browbeating and unkindness by the House because he had done his duty. By so doing the House did not consult its true character nor that of the King.

Sir F. BURDETT said, that if a proper time was not allowed to the Hon. Gentleman, he suspected that few people would be found hardy enough to do their duty in future, and the public might in vain suffer and complain. The Hon. Gentleman who brought the charges forward had acted with the utmost candour and fairness.

Mr. SHERIDAN said, he believed, that with the best intentions, the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Wardle) had *lent himself to an unprincipled association*. The best interests of the army and the country were at stake, and yet the Hon. Gentleman

was not ready to prove his charges, though he was ready enough to make them.

It was at length settled, that the Committee should sit again on Tuesday, and that Capt. Sandon, Mr. Donovan, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Shaw, and others, be summoned to attend.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Amiralty-Office, Jan. 31.

Extract of a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, to the Hon. W. W. Pole, dated on board the Ocean, December 14, 1808.

My letter of the 1st instant would inform you of the enemy having laid siege to the Castle of Rosas, and of the measures taken by the British ships in that bay in aid of the Spaniards for its defence. The Scout joined the squadron off Toulon on the 7th, and by her I received further accounts from Capt. Bennett, of the Fame, of the progress the enemy was making against that important fortress. Capt. Lord Cochrane has maintained himself in the possession of Trinity Castle with great ability and heroism; although the fort is laid open by the breach in its works, he has sustained and repelled several assaults, having formed a sort of rampart within the breach, with his ship's hammock cloths, awnings, &c. filled with sand and rubbish. The zeal and energy with which he has maintained that fortress, excites the highest admiration. His resources for every exigency have no end. The Spanish Governor of this Castle is wounded, and on board the Meteor.

[This Gazette contains also some details of the brave exertions made by the English, but without success, to maintain the Spaniards in the possession of the Castle of Rosas, the capture of which a late French Bulletin announced.]

Downing Street, Jan. 30, 1809.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Brigadier-General the Hon. C. W. Stewart, to be Governor of Fort Charles in the Island of Jamaica.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Proctor, Great Ealing, Middlesex, dealer in hay, to surrender Feb. 4, 14, March 14, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Gale and Son, Bedford-street, London.

R. Fox, Rugby, Warwickshire, scrivener, Feb. 15, 16, March 14, at eleven, at the George Inn, Coventry. Attorney, Mr. Palmer, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

J. Gane, Trowbridge, Wilts, carpenter, Feb. 13, 14, March 14, at the George Inn, Trowbridge. Attorney, Mr. Timbrell, Trowbridge.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a letter from Capt. Collier, of his Majesty's ship Circe, describing the destruction of Le Cygne, French corvette, of 18 guns and 140 men, at Martinique. In company with the Stork and Express, Capt. Collier ran a French schooner on shore under a battery of six guns, and the beach lined with troops. They closed within pistol-shot, silenced the battery, and drove the troops from the beach. Leaving the Morne Fortunee and Epervier to watch the schooner, they made sail to a brig and schooner which were lying to windward close to the beach, covered by four batteries and an immense number of troops and field-pieces on the beach. Lieut. Crook, Mr. Coleman, purser; Mr. Smith, master, and Mr. Thomas, carpenter, volunteered with 68 men to bring the brig out. Capt. Collier, with the Stork and Express, bore up under a heavy fire of great guns and small arms. The Circe's boats not waiting for the Stork's to come up bravely boarded, but were beat back with dreadful slaughter, and one boat taken, one sunk, and one wholly disabled, with fifty-six men killed, wounded, and missing.—It being then dark, Capt. Collier stood off till day-light. At 8 A.M. Capt. Brenton volunteered to bring her out, as she was towing close in shore to St. Pierre's. At 10 the French brig grounded near several batteries. The Amaranthe worked in under a heavy fire from the batteries and brig, followed by the Circe, and soon obliged them to quit the brig. The boats of the Circe, Amaranthe, and Stork, boarded her under a very heavy fire from the batteries and troops. Lieut. Hay finding her bilged, effectually destroyed her in the evening. Capt. Brenton again volunteered to destroy the schooner then on shore, and at 9 burnt her to the water's edge. Lieut. Crook is severely wounded, and Mr. Coleman dangerously. The other schooner was bilged.

List of Killed and Wounded.

Circe—9 killed, 21 wounded, 26 missing—56.
Amaranthe—1 killed, 6 wounded—7.
Stork—1 killed, 1 wounded—2.
Express—1 killed, 3 wounded—4.
Epervier—None killed or wounded.
Morne Fortunee—None killed or wounded.
Total—12 killed, 31 wounded, 26 missing—69.

The Gazette also recounts the capture of a French brig of 6 guns and 44 men, by Capt. Sanders, of the Bellette;—of a French ship of 8 guns and 32 men, by Capt. Spear, of the Goree, and of a French cutter of 14 guns and 60 men, by Capt. Brooke, of the Shannon.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Billing, Ravensthorp, Northampton, wool-comber and grocer, to surrender Feb. 17, at seven, 18, at ten, and March 18, at eleven, Wheatsheaf Inn, Daventry. Attorney, Mr. Baucutt, Long Buckley, Northampton.

W. Mawson, Kendal, Westmoreland, cotton spinner, Feb. 22, at five, 23, and March 18, at eleven, White Hart Inn, Kendal. Attornies, Messrs. Richardson and Fell, Kendal.

W. Watson, Tothill-street, Westminster, linen draper, Feb. 14, at twelve, 21, and March 18, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Hurd, King's Bench Walk, Temple.

J. Browne, Liverpool, merchant, March 1, 2, and 18, at one, Globe Tavern, John-street, Liverpool. Attorney, Messrs. Griffith and Hind, Liverpool.

G. Willis, Bath, Cabinet-maker, Feb. 20, 21, and March 18, at eleven, Christopher Inn, Bath. Attorney, Mr. Miller, Bath.

J. Murton, Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, dealer, Feb. 10, 11, and March 18, at eleven, Dog and Duck Tavern, Kingston-upon Hull. Attorney, Mr. Cotsworth, Hull.

S. Ele, Cannon-street Road, Middlesex, mason, Feb. 11, at one, 15, and March 18, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Burt, Gould-square, Crutched Friars.

S. M. Tomkins, Stanton St. John, Oxford, dealer, Feb. 17, 18, and March 18, at eleven, Angel Inn, Oxford. Attorney, Mr. Walsh, Oxford.

H. Elstob, Sunderland, Durham, mercer and draper, March 1, 2, 18, at eleven, Bridge Inn, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham. Attorney, Mr. Thompson, Bishop Wearmouth.

J. Howe, Walcot, Somersetshire, grocer, Feb. 17, 18, at eleven, March 18, at five, at the Christopher Inn, Bath. Attorney, Mr. Sheppard, Bath.

A. Dewar, Strood, Kent, millwright, Feb. 11, 18, March 18, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Gibbs, Rochester.

G. Richards, Cornhill, bookseller, Feb. 11, 18, March 18, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Bolton and Co. Lawrence-Poultney-Hill.

D. Allen, Newgate-street, shoemaker, Feb. 11, at one, 18, at twelve, March 18, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Jones and Roche, Church-yard, Covent-garden.

J. Scott, Gray's Inn-lane, builder, Feb. 11, 21, March 18, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Winckley, Temple.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols.....66⅞ | Red. Ann.....67⅜

A few complete Sets of the *Examiner* of last year, put into boards, may now be had at the Office, price two guineas the volume.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Scarecrow, the Reply to Mr. Scriven's Letters, the Graphic Club, and various other Communications of a general tendency, are again delayed from extreme press of matter. Our valuable Correspondents will excuse, I am sure, these perpetual apologies, at a time like the present. Their communications will be the first to be inserted of their kind.

THE EXAMINER.

London, Febuary 5.

There is no certain intelligence respecting the movements in the Peninsula, but we are evidently losing our last hold on the continent; and the Ministers, to preserve their faith and their vigour, are still making a great sensation in the ports,—at home. If any persons thought that the least power was to be retained on the continent by our mere possession of Lisbon, they might as well have attempted to struggle for a mahogany table by holding its edges with their nails. A mail, which arrived from that city on Friday morning, says that the British were busily preparing for its evacuation, that the troops had already embarked, that Admiral Berkeley had taken possession of 26 sail of Danish vessels and 2 Russian sail of the line in the Tagus, and that all the Portuguese ships of war were preparing to stand out to sea; but the same mail informs us, that as late as the 25th January, the last date of its accounts, *no* French had entered Portugal. The absurdity of this contradiction is too gross. It is enough, I think, that we run away when the French do come: but what can be meant by running away before they have entered Portugal, unless we mean to seduce them to conquest by *appearing* to have some other shore in view? The military artifices of our present rulers remind us of the old coffee-house politician in the Lecture on Heads, who after making alliance with the King of the Hottentots and other princes in the *Protestant* interest, tells us, if I remember rightly, that he takes his Catabaws and makes a diversion on the Cham of Tartary's back settlements.

The 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th French Bulletins have arrived in the course of the week. They give a most bragging account of the Battle of Corunna, of which they seem to know nothing, not even the death of Sir John Moore. They would persuade us, that with only 6,000 men they gained a complete victory, after killing and wounding 3,300 of us, and losing only 250 on their own side. What a pity is it, that our hasty expulsion gives something like a reasonable currency to this ridiculous bravado. The Bulletins are remarkable for nothing else but a fresh proof or two of the eagerness with which Bonaparte avails himself of every opportunity hostile to the national superstitions. He suppresses a convent of Dominicans because *one* Frenchman happened to be killed within it's walls; and praises the Benedictins because their Order has been celebrated for the diffusion of literature. What a compound is this man!

The Americans have given, it is said, the last decisive stamp to their late manly and philosophical proceedings, by a total prohibition of all intercourse with the European Belligerents.

The Erfurth negociations were brought forward in the Commons last Tuesday, and the Ministers received the sanction of their opponents as far as the principle of rejecting Bonaparte's offers went. But the old phrase of "unparalleled atrocity," produced some discussions on Government, as singular as they are profitable in the present age of Parliaments. Mr. Canning, though he refused to give that "assistance of every kind" which he promised the Spaniards, till a regular Government "was established," now tells us that we had nothing to do with the internal self-management of Spain, a doctrine which Mr. Whitbread, with his usual acuteness, stated to be the very reverse of all those principles of the Pittites which have already produced a sixteen years' war with France, and rendered her the mistress of the Continent. The "unparalleled atrocity" was paralleled of course with our treatment of India and of Ireland, and with the *partition of Poland* by our magnanimous allies, Russia, Prussia, and Germany. Mr. Canning talked of the "*fashion* of depreciating the present race of Sovereigns." Will this Gentleman shew us a single existing Monarch of the old houses who is a man of any merit? Is the Emperor of Austria? Is the King of Prussia, of Sicily, of Spain? These things grow every day so ridiculous, that some members of the Foxite party seem inclined to return to the principles on which the Pittites and Foxites both, and Mr. Canning among them, first set out; and in the course of the past week we find the leaders of both parties paying compliments to the patriotism of Sir F. Burdett. "The House," said the Baronet, "was called on for an address of thanks. He had no thanks to bestow. Kings were already too much exposed to adulation. It was the cause of the overthrow of too many of the thrones of Europe. It was fit that the King of England should occasionally hear the *truth* from his Commons." This is the spirit worthy of the most independent times of English Representation; and so true is it's voice, that *these few sentences could not be answered*. Lord H. Petty, though he voted against Sir Francis, declared he heartily agreed in almost all that he had said; and Mr. Canning, though he talked of danger, had nothing to say of the falsehood of the chief of the maxims, and confessed that no man was more willing than himself to do justice to the Baronet's talents and *sincerity*. *So omnipotent is the union of* POWER AND GOOD CHARACTER.

The present Examiner contains a careful account of all the prominent proceedings of the House respecting the Army Corruptions. I abstain from influencing the reader by any particular comments on this important subject at present. Great stress is laid, as it ought to be, upon *character*. Let him seriously consider this, to whatever part of the question he turns his attention. Whatever be the result, the country will inevitably reap advantage from it.

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The Expedition under the command of Major-General Smerbrook, consisting of about 5000 men, has been dispersed by severe weather. One transport has put back into Portsmouth, and two into Cork. Their destination is supposed to have been for Ceuta.

Many of the letters received from Plymouth are filled with accounts of the shocking havoc which has been made among our troops lately arrived there from Spain. They are represented as having been almost starved to death, and that many of the transports in which they returned were not provided with the means of furnishing them for many days with better or more nourishing food than raw potatoes and water, the weather being such as to prevent them from being dressed.

A poor Irishwoman, who resided in Shoe-lane, was brought to bed on Friday se'nnight, and on the same evening dreamt that she should die on the Monday following. The dream she related stated her firm reliance on its verity, and wished to have a priest to take her confession and grant her absolution. This dream was little attended to; but on Monday, during the hurricane, the husband thought he heard the roof of the house giving way, and mentioned his fears to his wife. She however was unable to help herself, and the roof falling in, buried in the ruins the unfortunate woman and child!

Fires.—On Sunday, a fire broke out in Warner's Hotel, Conduit-street, which not only burnt it to the ground, but also two other houses. Another fire broke out in the house of Mr. Bruce, an army agent, in Pall Mall, which was entirely consumed. Mr. Donald's house was also injured.—No lives were lost.

Blackfriars Bridge Sunday Toll.—The Act of the 26th of the King, which imposed the Toll, having expired at the end of the last Session of Parliament, and of which circumstance the Corporation of London are apprized, it is presumed that the toll will not, in future, be exacted.—Should, however, contrary to expectation, this not be the case, the Public will do well to request the Toll-gatherers to show by what authority such demand is made upon them.

Fashions for February.—There is nothing at present more fashionable for full-dress than Henry the Eighth's hats, in satin and velvet of every colour, with two ostrich feathers, and diamond buttons and loops, stars, sprigs, &c.; caps of velvet, with tufts of gold, silver, or pearls; white satin turbans, of a peculiar make, ornamented with silver, and composed entirely of silver and coloured gauze, or chambrays. The Altradorff cap is still in high repute for full dress; and the Augusta cap, worn with the Altradorff polisse, is the favourite morning dress; they are chiefly of cloth, trimmed with black velvet and gold, and much admired, with beautiful military tassins to match the cloth; mantles of the same, and trimmed in a similar manner, clasped before over the bosom with an antique stone; and small bonnets, very much turned up on one side, are much worn with them. The dresses continue in make just as usual, nor are the waists more than moderately long. White satin is still and ever will be considered the most elegant evening dress: they are now worn, trimmed with gold, silver, and pearls. Velvets and coloured sarsnets are also much seen and admired. The ball dresses are short, but, on other occasions, trains will certainly be adopted. The bosoms are not so much exposed as formerly, which is greatly owing to a French handkerchief, which is much worn, richly embroidered in satin stitch. White kid shoes for dress, toes more pointed.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 41.

The fate of scholastic tragedy.—Mr. Wright's first appearance and performance of Cato—His mere declamation.—Danger of professing elocution.—Inconsistencies and poverty of the whole performance of the Play.

DRURY-LANE.

A Gentleman from the Edinburgh Theatre, named Wright, who is said to be a professor of elocution, made his first appearance in London last Wednesday as the representative of Addison's *Cato*. It is curious to see the fate of all tragedies, that want nature, and particularly of those that are written in the scholastic taste. Smith's *Phædra*, the most classical composition of this kind, vanished from the stage after three nights; and such was the fate of a thousand subsequent productions of "small poets," famous in their cotemporary coffee-houses, down to the *Irene* of Johnson, who though he forgot himself far enough to appreciate the error of his predecessors, could not forget himself sufficiently to avoid the pedantry on his own part. All his attempts at dramatic dialogue and character, whether in prose or in poetry, whether in *Irene*, *Rasselas*, or the *Rambler*, are but transcripts of his own mind and manner: he has just half the magic, and the worst half, of the Prince in Dr. Hawkesworth's romance, and can give his own appearance to other persons, but cannot assume theirs. The tragedy of *Cato* was supposed for a long time to have conquered in favour of the old dramatic prejudices; it was kept up like a shuttlecock, on it's first appearance for thirty successive nights by the allusions that were clapped by the Whigs against the Tories and by the Tories back against the Whigs; it had poems and pamphlets written upon it; it was translated by the Jesuits into Latin, and by Abbots and Nobles into French and Italian; and lastly, it was called by the greatest genius of his time the only real tragedy in England. Justice demanded, that he who called Shakspeare a writer of monstrous farces, should have called Addison a writer of fine tragedies. But notwithstanding all these glorious earnests of immortality it soon fell with the passions that had sustained it; and at length, it is never produced but for the appearance of some favourite actor or some ambitious debutant, who thinks he is destined to bring back former ages.

It must be confessed however, that the revival of a classical play is some relief from the vulgarity and nonsense of the modern drama; and the piece was well chosen by Mr. Wright for the exhibition of his powers as a professor of

elocution. Mr. Wright is neither tall nor of a vigorous appearance, but he is dark and has a rigidity of aspect, which though by no means favourable to good acting, served very well for the inflexible Roman. The part was rather well read than acted. Mr. Wright's enunciation and his general emphasis were highly correct, though he dropped his voice in two instances without any apparent reason, particularly at the word *free* in those lines—

'Tis Rome demands your tears:
The mistress of the world, the seat of empire,
The nurse of heroes, the delight of gods,
That humbled the proud nations of the earth,
And set the nations free, Rome is no more.

I quote from memory, but I believe am correct in the main substance. The reader may conceive what an abrupt and unpleasant effect this delivery must have had. The lines indeed, though excellent in other respects, have an ambiguity of connexion with the beginning and the end, which is one of the most unpleasant faults of composition, and throws the whole beauty of a passage at the mercy of a stop. Mr. Wright's action was altogether forced and unnatural, and consisted entirely of an immoderate exercise of the arms, which he wielded on all occasions, whether impassioned or not. At one minute he thrust out his right arm with special care to drop his wrist and extend his finger, like the affected figures of Burney: at the next he elevated his arms above his head, a sublime action, but very sparingly to be used on account of it's sublimity; then he thrust them behind him as if he had been playing the dumb bells; but his grand and favourite attitude was a stiff extension of them at full length, like the enthusiast who spent his hours in acting a crucifix. If this compound of affected picture-making was intended for candour, dignity, and force, it was nevertheless totally unlike the manners of *Cato*, who if he was sometimes vehement, was always a strict observer of simplicity. A man however may represent *Cato* to more advantage than Mr. Wright has done, without having the powers of a true actor: the best declamation is no test of good tragedy either in poet or performer: the town will soon discern the difference between a master of the pulpit and a master of the passions; and in truth, the professors of elocution, occupied as they are with a syllabical study never to be found in real life and certainly not in it's impassioned moments, become in general mere declaimers, champions of *buts*, and splitters of a point.

In Monosyllables their thunders roll,
And He—She—We—Ye—And—They—fright the soul.

There was an intolerable neglect of chronological and classical propriety in the scenery and dresses. The interior and exterior of the houses in the old African sea-port were precisely those of modern England; and most of the senators were dressed in the red gowns of the senate in *Venice Preserved*, and all of them improperly for the assembly, except Mr. Eyre, who shews a very laudable and gentlemanly attention to general propriety. Mr. Wright, who I suppose is a man of reading, should recollect that after his declaration in favour of Pompey, Cato always appeared in black instead of white or red, not to mention that he let his beard and hair grow in further token of his affliction.

Upon the whole, the tragedy was very poorly represented. If Mr. Wright is altogether too elaborate, Mr. Siddons on the other hand would do well to take a lesson from him on enunciation and delivery. Charles Kemble is the man for the tender and princely *Juba*, and nobody can act such characters as *Cato* but his brother, who whatever may be his defects in parts of more nature, is unrivalled in characters of studious and dignified severity.

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THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,

An opportunity has at length occurred to judge more particularly of the talents of Signor Pucitta, the music of the new Opera, produced on Tuesday, being entirely of his composition. This opera is entitled *I Villeggiatori Bizzarri*, and the story is professedly taken from an anecdote related of Philip Duke of Burgundy, by Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy," although the same incident occurs in the Arabian tale of "Abon Hassan," and in the Induction to the "Taming of the Shrew." To attempt the reformation of the *Poets* of this theatre would be a hopeless task; where there is no talent there is no possibility of reformation; their writings abound with the grossest absurdities; wit or even the smallest pretensions to humour are never expected, and the Operas rest their only claims to favour upon the ingenuity of the composer, or the varied talents of the actor. Signor Pucitta's compositions possess neither novelty nor science, they are generally pleasing and lively, but without much variety; old Italian passages occur every minute, and it is easy to judge by one bar what will occur in the next. The overture has some pretension to singularity, but very little to genius, and many passages in it would not have done credit even to such composers as Ware or Venua. The trio of "Dolce tranquillita" is altogether the most pleasing production in the Opera, both the melody and modulation being elegant and well adapted to the words. The principal character of the Opera was sustained by Signora Pucitta, the wife of the composer, and an extremely interesting little woman. Her voice is a tenor, peculiarly sweet and firm, but much too weak to give sufficient effect to the music in this large theatre. Her turns and embellishments are made with the utmost neatness, and she possesses an uncommon degree of pathos, which is the soul of music. In the song "Deh calma l'affanno," her style was not unlike that of Madame Grassini, and to say this is to give no small portion of praise. She occasionally sung rather too flat, but I think it proceeded more from embarrassment and cold than from any defect in her ear. As an actress, she is eclipsed by the archness and vivacity of Mlle Collini, which tend materially to enliven the inherent dulness of the Opera. Signor Naldi performed the intoxicated boor Zuccolo, but was neither sufficiently stupid nor vulgar, and his countenance and deportment appear incapable of conforming themselves to the characters of low comedy. When he plays a peasant he looks like a gentleman in common clothes, and his features are seldom divested of the sensible expression which is natural to them. On the whole the new Opera is a very wretched production, but what can be expected while the Manager employs such wretched talents; I could as readily imagine Euclid to be a writer of conundrums as that Signor Buonaiuti would ever produce any thing lively or entertaining.

H. R.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

STANZAS,
ADDRESSED TO MRS. CLARKE.

GREAT Amazonian Dame! for thee my lay
A votive wreath of praise shall gladly twine;
Provided thou wilt take me from Half-pay,
All that as Poet I can give, is thine.

Fair raiser of Recruits! thy *row de dow*,
Charm'd the poor rustic bumpkins much no doubt;
Who would not rush to arms well pleas'd!—for, lo!
Disinterested Beauty calls men out!

Sweet Medintress of Exchange you are;
You smile,—'tis done;—you frown,—and they remain;
You give the proper impulse to the war,
And Armies bless thy renovating reign!

Oh! then assume the helmet and the shield,
And sport thy figure in Saint James's Park;
Where fancy, as thou stridest o'er the field,
Shall view Bellona's form in *Mistress* CLARKE!!!

Clement's Inn. L—C—Y.

MRS. CLARKE.

Various accounts of this woman have appeared in the public papers: but they differ a good deal. Some say that her maiden name was *Thompson*, and others, that she was the daughter of a journeyman printer of the name of Farquhar. They all agree that she was of humble origin, and that she married Mr. Clarke, the son of a builder on Snow Hill, at a very early age; he was a stone-mason; but gave up business, and is now living in obscurity. By this man, Mrs. Clarke had three children. She is represented as having been always of a gay turn, and very expensive habits. What was her course of life between leaving her husband, who, it is said, used her in a most infamous manner, and commencing the costly establishment in Gloucester Place, is not known; but her extravagance there is said to have been unbounded; and she in particular exerted all her powers in giving luxurious suppers, set out in the most brilliant manner. Of the extent to which she went, some notion may be formed from the wine glasses out of which the Duke and her friends drank, such in size as individuals use at dinner, which were so finely cut, that at the sale of her furniture, two years ago, they sold, second hand, for a guinea each glass. Mr. Clarke is a wanderer about the town, on a small annuity paid him weekly, pursuant to his father's will, being all the father left him. Mrs. Clarke's own father is dead; she had three brothers, one of whom entered the army as a common soldier, and is supposed to be dead, and it is believed the other brothers are dead also.—She had a sister. Whether the mother and sister are living, is unknown; but the person Mrs. Clarke calls her mother, is supposed to be her chief adviser and confederate, though no relation. Mrs. Clarke lived with several Gentlemen prior to her acquaintance with the Duke of York, all of whom complain of her extravagance and artfulness; but admit that she is a most fascinating woman. At the sale of Mrs. Clarke's effects in Gloucester Place, among other articles which came to the hammer was *a miniature of the Queen*, set round with diamonds. Of the beauty of this fallen favourite, there are as many opinions as of her birth. Some say she is very pretty, though not a beautiful woman; small and well made, according to one statement; and not a very good figure, according to another. She has a fair and clear skin, with light blue eyes, and an appearance of great vivacity, not to say impudence, of manner. She appears to be above 35 years of age. When she first appeared at the bar she looked very pale, but in a short time the colour flushed in her face, which was like vermillion. She delivered her evidence with great fluency and shrewdness, and did not appear daunted at any time.

THE DUKE OF YORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,

Amongst all the extraordinary assertions which were last night made relative to the Commander in Chief, those of Mr. Yorke (or at least one of them), I think left the whole of Mr. Wardle's at a sightless distance. I think the pale and iron cheek of old *George Rose* himself, must have been suffused with a blush when Mr. Yorke thus spoke:—"When the House recollected the *eminent services* of the Commander in Chief,—when they recollected the state of the Army,—*it could not in fact be called an Army when his Royal Highness took the command of it*,—but from the great exertions of his Royal Highness, it had become the first in the world!"—I remember being convulsed with laughter on reading that part of *Tristram Shandy*, where *Dr. Slop*, after expatiating on the instrument which he had invented to assist the *Obstetric Art*, concluded by expressing his surprize how men came into the world before his invention.—*Uncle Toby*, taking his pipe from his mouth, calmly replied, "you would have been astonished, *Dr. Slop*, to have seen what armies we had in Germany."—Since the speech of Mr. Yorke, I begin to doubt of the evidence of my senses, as far as they are concerned in the perusal of history. It had occurred to me that MARLBOROUGH and the English armies, who checked the pride of Louis XIV. baffled his best Generals, and restored the liberties of the Continent,—all lived, conquered, and died, before his Royal Highness FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK AND ALBANY was born: but I am young, and my memory may be flighty.—I will consult *Hume* and *Smollett* again.

A word to those who (like a pack of hounds, all chiming in, when the old dog gives tongue) were so noisy in vociferating "conspiracy against the House of Brunswick, Jacobins," &c. I beg these short-sighted gentlemen to reflect, that innocence always solicits investigation, as the means of exhibiting itself more pure, and of making the foulness of the accuser's charge result with tenfold disgrace on his own head.—Those printings which are termed by the CANNINGS and the CASTLEREAGHS, *Libels*, are, in fact, the best friends to innocence, being the *stimuli* by which investigation is produced. No, Mr. EXAMINER, a good old book says, "The sons of darkness shun the light," and the guilty ones fear, hate, and join in hunting down the *Torch-bearers*, with the howl of *Conspirator* and *Jacobin*.

I am, Mr. EXAMINER, your old Correspondent,

Temple, Jan. 27, 1809. PU—O DU—S.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the EXAMINER Office, 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 3½d.